

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025

# Don't Ruin Your Holiday Celebrations with a Clogged Sewer Line

## CITY OF SAN DIEGO REMINDS RESIDENTS THAT FATS, OILS AND GREASE SHOULD NEVER GO DOWN THE DRAIN

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is reminding residents to keep their pipes clean and clear this holiday season by keeping fats, oils and grease out of their drains.

With many residents cooking at home this time of year, it's important to remember that cooking grease can clog pipes and, over time, cause a complete blockage which could lead to a sewer spill. Spilled sewage can eventually reach San Diego's bays, rivers and beaches, causing unsafe conditions and temporary closures.

**“Grease-clogged sewer lines not only lead to costly repairs at home but can also do significant damage to the surrounding environment,”** said Juan Guerreiro, Director of the Public Utilities Department. **“Disposing of fats, oils and grease properly and keeping them out of your drain and sewer lines will save everyone a headache this holiday season.”**

Following a few simple steps can help prevent costly sewer spills:

- Never pour fats, oils or grease down the sink drain or garbage disposal. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system.
- Pour small amounts of cooled cooking oil (this includes salad dressing, frying oil and bacon fat) into a non-recyclable package or container and dispose of it in the garbage. Grease, oils and other liquids are not allowed in green bins for organic waste recycling.
- Wipe dishes and pots coated with greasy leftovers with a disposable towel before washing or placing them in the dishwasher.
- Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps such as meat trimmings and other solids to keep them out of the garbage disposal.

To report a sewer spill, call the Public Utilities emergency hotline at 619-515-3525. For additional information about preventing sewer spills, visit the [City's website](#).



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